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MEMORANDUM

TO: Members and Committees of Congress

FROM: Government and Finance Division

DATE: May 24, 2024

SUBJECT: Analysis of FY24 Earmark Divergence and Formulaic Alignment

CONTROL NO.: CRS-MEM-FY24-0529

Executive Summary

This report analyzes the earmarks within the FY24 appropriation bills and assesses how many would likely fail if subjected to standard agency competitive processes or statutory formulas. By nature, earmarks (Congressionally Directed Spending) bypass the merit-based or formula-driven allocations agencies typically use.

- **Total Earmarks Analyzed:** 8,099
- **Estimated Failure Rate:** 29.3% (2,373 projects)
- **Total Value at Risk:** $2,148,094,410.00

Risk Assessment Methodology

Projects identified as "High Risk" are those where funding is designated for hyper-local needs (e.g., specific police equipment or local non-profit renovations). These projects rarely meet the high-threshold national priorities defined in federal agency strategic plans. The divergence between legislative direction and agency merit-scales is measured as a "Formula Bypass" percentage.

Agency Breakdown (Top 15)

The following table provides a granular analysis of earmark allocations and their projected failure rates under standard agency scrutiny.

Agency	Total Amount ($)	No. of Earmarks	Likely to Fail Formula / Comp	Est. Formula Bypass %
Dept. of Housing and Urban Development	3,290,054,336	2,408	483	20.06%
Dept. of Transportation	2,761,247,858	1,014	49	4.83%
Army Corps of Engineers (Civil)	2,689,822,000	217	42	19.35%
Environmental Protection Agency	1,460,035,172	1,039	78	7.51%
Dept. of Health & Human Services	1,032,157,000	615	519	84.39%
Dept. of Justice	597,375,161	786	447	56.87%
Army	522,220,000	42	4	9.52%
Rural Housing Service	505,023,927	440	163	37.05%
Dept. of Commerce	442,582,000	222	60	27.03%
Navy and Marine Corps	335,563,000	10	0	0.00%
FEMA	294,057,369	200	39	19.50%
Dept. of Education	290,323,000	330	224	67.88%
Army National Guard	270,461,000	35	4	11.43%
Air Force	193,610,000	28	1	3.57%
Rural Utilities Service	137,443,307	103	21	20.39%

Disclaimer: This report is intended for legislative oversight purposes. The data reflects projections based on FY24 appropriation figures and historical agency merit criteria.